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# The Netherlands Dairy and Products Semi-Annual 2000

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## **Report Highlights:**

This report provides an overview of production, consumption and trade trends in the Dutch dairy sector

> Includes PSD changes: Yes Includes Trade Matrix: Yes Semi-Annual Report The Hague [NL1], NL

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# **Executive Summary**

#### **Production**

Dutch milk production dropped slightly to about 10.5 million metric tons (mmt). The number of dairy farms are decreasing as the farms consolidate and become larger in size. Cheese production is up, driven by an increase in export demand, and butter production has seen a corresponding decrease of about 7 percent. The production of non-fat milk powder increased 38 percent while whole milk powder decreased about 8 percent.

#### Consumption

Milk and milk products consumption remained stable.

#### Trade

Dutch dairy exports decreased because of decreased demand in Russia, Asia and South America and concerns over the dioxin crisis. Cheese exports dropped in 1999 but picked up during the first two months of 2000. Dutch butter exports decreased 7.5 percent in 1999 but exports of non-fat and whole milk powder increased 3.3 percent, supported by the high world demand for milk protein.

#### **Policy**

In line with "Agenda 2000", the European Commission decreased export subsidies for non-fat and whole milk powder. Concerns over animal health risks in the Netherlands led to an increase in the maximum liability for the dairy sector to Dfl. 500 million (US\$ 205 million) and an increase in the levy of farm milk.

Dutch farmers asked Bayer to pay for damages caused by the "slijter" disease, which is suspected to be caused by Bayer's vaccine against IBR. Dutch restrictions on nitrate emissions may affect the way farmers feed their cattle.

#### **Marketing**

The two largest dairy processors want to focus their marketing on their fresh and functional products. The image of the quality of Dutch dairy products is being reinforced by a regulation to provide quality guarantees for milk and a system to ensure the quality of all aspects of animal feed.

Conversion rates **1998**: US\$ 1.00 = Dfl. 2.0781 **1999**: US\$ 1.00 = Dfl. 2.0680 **2000**: US\$ 1.00 = Dfl. 2.2910

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#### **Production**

#### Milk

Dutch milk production dropped slightly to about 10.5 million metric tons (mmt). The number of dairy farms are decreasing as the farms consolidate and become larger in size. According to VEEPRO (The Information Center for Dutch Dairy Cattle), the current number of farms with dairy cattle is 31,700 but this should eventually drop to less than 20,000.

Cheese production is up, driven by an increase in export demand, and butter production has seen a corresponding decrease of about 7 percent. The production of non-fat milk powder increased 38 percent while whole milk powder decreased about 8 percent. Dutch milk production, nearly 11 million MT in 1999, is in an increasing rate shifted to the larger farms. During the 99/00 season the growth of the number of farms with a production between 400 and 500 MT stopped. Only the number of farms with a production above 500 MT showed an increase. The production of consumption milk and milk products was 1.62 million MT in 1999.

#### Cheese

During the second half of 1999, Dutch cheese production recovered from earlier decreases and ended the year at 641,000 MT, slightly higher than 1998. In the first two months of 2000, cheese production increased 11 percent compared to the same period in 1999, mainly in response to increased export demand.

#### Butter

Partly in response to 1999 increased cheese production, butter production declined by 7 percent. In January and February 2000, butter declined 11 percent compared to the same period in 1999.

#### Milk powder

Production of non-fat and whole milk powder in 1999 was 84,000 MT (up 38%) and 105,000 MT (down 8%), respectively. Production in January and February 2000 declined 8 percent from the first two months of 1999 because of production increase of cheese.

# Consumption

The consumption of milk and milk products in The Netherlands remained stable. The per capita consumption of cheese and butter remained at 14.2 kg. and 3.4 kg., respectively.

#### Trade

Both of the largest dairy producers in The Netherlands, Coberco and Campina Melkunie, described 1999 as a difficult and disappointing year. Sales of Coberco rose slightly to Dfl. 8.87 billion (US\$ 4.29 billion), a raise of 2.8 percent solely because of take overs, and Campina Melkunie's sales dropped 5.5 percent to Dfl. 7.28 billion (US\$ 3.52 billion). Exports were affected by lower demand in Russia, Asia and South America and by concerns over the dioxin crisis (total negative result of circa Dfl. 70 million, US\$ 34 million, for Coberco and Campina Melkunie). Total Dutch exports decreased to Dfl. 6.9 billion (US\$ 3.3 billion) in 1999 from 7.6 billion (US\$ 3.7 billion) in 1998.

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Prices of butter, non-fat milk powder and cheese dropped below the EU intervention level. Only a limited amount of butter and non-fat milk powder was taken out of the market because the EU and world markets recovered during mid-1999. Since then, prices of butter, cheese and milk powder have increased considerably although butter prices stabilized near the end of 1999.

#### Cheese

Dutch cheese exports declined 13 percent during January to April 1999 but export volumes picked up during the second half of 1999, especially for Germany and France. Total 1999 exports declined 2.3 percent compared to 1998. January 2000 exports are reportedly up 6 percent over last year, with increases to Russia, Egypt, Italy, Japan, the United States, and Mexico. Current prices in Belgium and Germany are higher than last year are not expected to decline soon. Cheese imports decreased slightly to 79,000 MT (81,000 MT in 1998).

#### Butter

The butter price declined from Dfl 7.20 at the beginning of 1999 to Dfl. 6.55 in February 2000, in response to lower Dutch exports. Exports to destinations outside the EU declined 24 percent. Exports calculated as butter equivalents remained the same because of a higher butter fat level (8%). During 1999, 330 MT of Dutch butter were removed from the market by intervention, but this was only a small amount of the total EU amount of 54,000 MT. The supportive measure of the EU of private storage was extensively used by The Netherlands. During 1999, another 66,000 MT (compared to an EU total of 187,000 MT) was stored according the EU regulation allowing subsidized private storage. The official Dutch price of butter was increased to Dfl 6.70 per kg by the end of April 2000, no further price increases are currently expected.

#### Milk powder

A total of 100,000 MT of non-fat milk powder was taken out of the market by intervention between March and September 1999. During the second half of 1999, world demand and prices for whole and non-fat milk powder rose from Dfl 5.52 and Dfl 4.43 per kg., respectively, to Dfl 5.85 and Dfl 4.83 per kg. Total Dutch exports of non-fat and whole milk powder increased 3.3 percent in 1999 to reach 258,583 MT. Imports increased 23 percent to 352,429 MT. The market for milk powder remains firm. Exports of non-fat milk powder in January 2000 tripled compared to January 1999, with the prime destinations being Mexico, Japan, Cuba and the Philippines. Despite cuts in the export subsidy for milk powders, prices continue to increase with prices currently at Dfl. 5.95 and Dfl 5.02 per kg for whole and non fat milk powder, respectively. The higher prices are supported by the high world demand for milk protein and the relatively high US dollar exchange rate.

# **Policy**

In line with "Agenda 2000", the European Commission decreased export subsidies for non-fat and whole milk powder. Further reforms on the EU dairy sector will be postponed to July 2005 but limiting total agricultural expenditures to EURO 40.5 billion (US\$ 36.5 billion) should constrain voluntary expenditures in the diary sector. On May 4, 2000, the EU decreased the export subsidy 5.4 percent to EURO 61.5 (US\$ 55.4) per 100 kg. for non-fat milk powder and 8.6 percent to EURO 85 (US\$ 76.6) per 100 kg. for whole milk powder

Concerns over animal health risks in the Netherlands led to an increase in the maximum liability for the dairy sector to Dfl. 500 million (US\$ 205 million) and an increase in the levy of farm milk from Dfl 0.23 to 0.30 per 100 kg at the beginning of 2000.

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Dutch farmers asked Bayer to pay for damages caused by the "slijter" disease, which is suspected to be caused by Bayer's vaccine against IBR. More than 1,100 farmers will submit claims to Bayer. The ID-DLO (Dutch Agricultural Research Institute) is expected to present their findings on the relationship between the "slijter" disease and Bayer's vaccine by the end of summer 2000.

Dutch restrictions on nitrate emissions may affect the way farmers feed their cattle. The LTO (The Dutch Farm Organization) expects that 60 to 80 percent of Dutch dairy farmers will stop feeding their cattle out in the pasture. All parties involved view this development as undesirable and unintentional side effect of the regulations.

## **Marketing**

The two largest dairy processors (Coberco and Campina Melkunie) want to focus their marketing on their fresh and functional products.

Dutch dairy processors are becoming more international as further concentration of the sector in the Netherlands is limited by the NMa (The Netherlands Competition Authority) and perhaps more restrictions of EU export restitutions and quotas in the next WTO round. The processors also see opportunities with the upcoming EU enlargement.

The image of the quality of Dutch dairy products in being reinforced by a regulation to provide quality guarantees for milk and a system to ensure the quality of all aspects of animal feed. Beginning in 2000, the "Keten Kwaliteit Melk" (Chain Quality Milk) regulation was implemented to guarantee certain quality factors for milk. Another system to guarantee the safety of animal feed is being introduced in 2000, focusing on the combination of HAACP regulations and the Dutch GMP (Good Manufacturing Practice) registration system. The Dutch want to assure their markets that their food products are among the safest in the world and feel that part of the solution is to institute early warning and early intervention protocols in the entire feed chain. The Dutch are also strong supporters of an European Food Safety Organization with central authority, comparable to the U.S. FDA.

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# **PSD Tables**

PSD Table						
Country	Netherlands					
Commodity	Dairy, Butter				(1000 MT)	
	Revised	1998	Preliminary	1999	Forecast	2000
	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New
Market Year Begin		01/1998		01/1999		01/2000
Beginning Stocks	35	35	54	64	61	83
Production	149	149	141	140	135	135
Intra EC Imports	45	48	43	41	40	40
Other Imports	7	13	7	11	7	10
TOTAL Imports	52	61	50	52	47	50
TOTAL SUPPLY	236	245	245	256	243	268
Intra EC Exports	95	95	96	94	95	95
Other Exports	36	35	37	27	34	30
TOTAL Exports	131	130	133	121	129	125
Domestic Consumption	51	51	51	52	49	53
TOTAL Use	182	181	184	173	178	178
Ending Stocks	54	64	61	83	65	90
TOTAL DISTRIBUTION	236	245	245	256	243	268
Calendar Yr. Imp. from U.S.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Calendar Yr. Exp. to U.S.	0	0	0	0	0	0

PSD Table						
Country	Netherlands					
Commodity	Dairy, Cheese				(1000 MT)	
	Revised	1998	Preliminary	1999	Forecast	2000
	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New
Market Year Begin		01/1998		01/1999		01/2000
Beginning Stocks	119	150	142	126	157	122
Production	638	638	630	641	625	645
Intra EC Imports	79	66	75	52	70	55
Other Imports	24	15	20	27	21	35
TOTAL Imports	103	81	95	79	91	90
TOTAL SUPPLY	860	869	867	846	873	857
Intra EC Exports	408	409	404	400	402	420
Other Exports	72	67	70	55	68	75
TOTAL Exports	480	476	474	455	470	495
Human Dom. Consumption	232	261	230	263	231	265
Other Use, Losses	6	6	6	6	6	6
Total Dom. Consumption	238	267	236	269	237	271
TOTAL Use	718	743	710	724	707	766
Ending Stocks	142	126	157	122	166	91
TOTAL DISTRIBUTION	860	869	867	846	873	857
Calendar Yr. Imp. from U.S.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Calendar Yr. Exp. to U.S.	12	12	10	13	11	13

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PSD Table						
Country	Netherlands					
Commodity	Dairy, Milk, No	nfat Dry			(1000 MT)	
	Revised	1998	Preliminary	1999	Forecast	2000
	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New
Market Year Begin		01/1998		01/1999		01/2000
Beginning Stocks	0	0	0	22	0	72
Production	61	61	64	84	65	65
Intra EC Imports	134	149	132	201	130	145
Other Imports	42	42	40	54	39	40
TOTAL Imports	176	191	172	255	169	185
TOTAL SUPPLY	237	252	236	361	234	322
Intra EC Exports	31	31	31	29	31	35
Other Exports	29	29	28	40	29	85
TOTAL Exports	60	60	59	69	60	120
Human Dom. Consumption	15	15	15	15	15	15
Other Use, Losses	162	155	162	205	159	175
Total Dom. Consumption	177	170	177	220	174	190
TOTAL Use	237	230	236	289	234	310
Ending Stocks	0	22	0	72	0	12
TOTAL DISTRIBUTION	237	252	236	361	234	322
Calendar Yr. Imp. from U.S.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Calendar Yr. Exp. to U.S.	0	0	0	0	0	0

PSD Table						
Country	Netherlands					
Commodity	Dairy, Dry Whol	le Milk Powder			(1000 MT)	
	Revised	1998	Preliminary	1999	Forecast	2000
	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New
Market Year Begin		01/1998		01/1999		01/2000
Beginning Stocks	0	0	0	10	0	6
Production	114	114	113	105	111	100
Intra EC Imports	82	93	86	93	79	98
Other Imports	5	5	3	5	4	6
TOTAL Imports	87	98	89	98	83	104
TOTAL SUPPLY	201	212	202	213	194	210
Intra EC Exports	18	18	16	19	15	22
Other Exports	171	172	169	171	166	175
TOTAL Exports	189	190	185	190	181	197
Human Dom. Consumption	12	12	17	17	13	13
Other Use, Losses	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Dom. Consumption	12	12	17	17	13	13
TOTAL Use	201	202	202	207	194	210
Ending Stocks	0	10	0	6	0	0
TOTAL DISTRIBUTION	201	212	202	213	194	210
Calendar Yr. Imp. from U.S.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Calendar Yr. Exp. to U.S.	0	0	0	0	0	0

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PSD Table						
Country	Netherlands					
Commodity	Dairy, Milk, F	Dairy, Milk, Fluid			(1000 HEAD)	(1000 MT)
	Revised	1998	Preliminary	1999	Forecast	2000
	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New
Market Year Begin		01/1998		01/1999		01/2000
Cows In Milk	1,600	1,600	1,600	1,600	1,550	1,550
Cows Milk Production	11,000	11,000	11,000	10,670	10,500	10,500
Other Milk Production	10	10	10	10	10	10
TOTAL Production	11,010	11,010	11,010	10,680	10,510	10,510
Intra EC Imports	874	1,069	867	1,171	860	1,400
Other Imports	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL Imports	874	1,069	867	1,171	860	1,400
TOTAL SUPPLY	11,884	12,079	11,877	11,851	11,370	11,910
Intra EC Exports	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Exports	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL Exports	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fluid Use Dom. Consum.	1,645	1,659	1,650	1,624	1,600	1,600
Factory Use Consum.	9,860	10,059	9,900	9,900	9,460	10,000
Feed Use Dom. Consum.	379	361	327	327	310	310
TOTAL Dom. Consumption	11,884	12,079	11,877	11,851	11,370	11,910
TOTAL DISTRIBUTION	11,884	12,079	11,877	11,851	11,370	11,910
Calendar Yr. Imp. from U.S.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Calendar Yr. Exp. to U.S.	0	0	0	0	0	0

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# **Trade Matrices**

Import Trade Matr	ix		
Country	Netherlands		
Commodity	Dairy, Butter		
Time period	CY	Units:	Metric Tons
Imports for:	1998		1999
U.S.		U.S.	1
Others		Others	
E.U.	47,548	E.U.	41,096
-France	652	-France	801
-Belgium/Lux	13,486	-Belgium/Lux	-
-Germany	4,785	-Germany	7,052
-U.K.	6,557	-U.K.	10,384
-Ireland	19,600	-Ireland	18,846
New Zealand	6,289	New Zealand	1,573
Estonia	1,433	Estonia	1,433
Czech Rep.	1,257	Czech Rep.	1,779
Lithuania	1,110	Lithuania	1,528
Total for Others	57,637		47,409
Others not Listed	2,713		4,984
Grand Total	60,350		52,394

Export Trade Matrix			
Country	Netherlands		
Commodity	Dairy, Butter		
Time period	CY	Units:	Metric Tons
Exports for:	1998		1999
U.S.	1	U.S.	57
Others		Others	
E.U.	95,130	E.U.	93,830
-France	22,342	-France	19,108
-Belgium/Lux	18,810	-Belgium	19,935
-Germany	47,067	-Germany	47,174
Switzerland	2,517	Switzerland	3,821
Russia	4,848	Russia	5,652
Saudi Arabia	2,517	Saudi Arabia	3,035
Egypt	4,490	Egypt	1,455
Iran	6,333	Iran	735
Singapore	2,197	Singapore	2,888
Total for Others	118,032		111,416
Others not Listed	12,560		9,298
<b>Grand Total</b>	130,593		120,771

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Import Trade Matr	Import Trade Matrix		
Country	Netherlands		
Commodity	Dairy, Cheese		
Time period	CY	Units:	Metric Tons
Imports for:	1998		1999
U.S.	42	U.S.	308
Others		Others	
E.U.	83,079	E.U.	73,149
-France	17,345	-France	20,453
-Belgium/Lux	20,896	-Belgium/Lux	-
-Germany	25,262	-Germany	34,073
-U.K.	8,360	-U.K.	8,034
-Denmark	6,005	-Denmark	5,967
Switzerland	969	Switzerland	4,249
New Zealand	8,379	New Zealand	9,580
Lithuania	2,148	Lithuania	1,438
Australia	7,532	Australia	12,078
Total for Others	102,107		100,494
Others not Listed	4,705		9,384
<b>Grand Total</b>	106,854		110,186

Import figures of cheese are inclusive cottage cheese.

Export Trade Matrix			
Country	Netherlands		
Commodity	Dairy, Cheese		
Time period	CY	Units:	Metric Tons
<b>Exports for:</b>	1998		1999
U.S.	11,842	U.S.	12,786
Others		Others	
E.U.	411,366	E.U.	408,077
-France	47,725	-France	48,252
-Belgium/Lux	57,915	-Belgium	45,092
-Germany	208,146	-Germany	206,184
-Italy	20,928	-Italy	24,323
-Spain	23,846	-Spain	23,605
-Greece	21,229	-Greece	23,240
Russia	7,723	Russia	2,707
Japan	7,971	Japan	7,007
Mexico	4,310	Mexico	4,306
Total for Others	431,370		422,097
Others not Listed	35,356		32,690
Grand Total	478,568		467,573

Export figures of cheese are inclusive cottage cheese.

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Import Trade Mati	rix		
Country	Netherlands		
Commodity	Dairy, Milk, N	onfat Dry	
Time period	CY	Units:	Metric Tons
Imports for:	1998		1999
U.S.		U.S.	0
Others		Others	
E.U.	149,295	E.U.	201,239
-France	17,259	-France	19,103
-Belgium/Lux	11,160	-Belgium/Lux	-
-Germany	88,463	-Germany	101,606
-Ireland	12,343	-Ireland	37,528
-U.K.	13,026	-U.K.	27,199
Poland	12,077	Poland	18,156
Estonia	8,733	Estonia	6,379
Lithuania	9,658	Lithuania	6,160
Czech Rep	4,001	Czech Rep	6,005
Total for Others	183,764		237,939
Others not Listed	7,320		17,255
Grand Total	191,084		255,194

Export Trade Matrix			
Country	Netherlands		
Commodity	Dairy, Milk, No	onfat Dry	
Time period	CY	Units:	Metric Tons
Exports for:	1998		1999
U.S.		U.S.	
Others		Others	
E.U.	30,624	E.U.	28,671
-France	6,900	-France	6,173
-Belgium/Lux	6,181	-Belgium	6,117
-Germany	9,103	-Germany	11,107
-Spain	3,354	-Spain	2,663
India	67	India	8,764
Mexico	2,250	Mexico	1,063
Algeria	7,040	Algeria	3,446
Cuba	1,480	Cuba	2,068
Singapore	801	Singapore	2,072
Total for Others	42,262		46,084
Others not Listed	17,629		22,189
Grand Total	59,891		68,273

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Import Trade Matrix			
Country	Netherlands		
Commodity	Dairy, Dry Wh	ole Milk Powder	
Time period	CY	Units:	Metric Tons
Imports for:	1998		1999
U.S.	0	U.S.	0
Others		Others	
E.U.	92,857	E.U.	92,552
-France	21,530	-France	13,938
-Belgium/Lux	11,542	-Belgium/Lux	-
-Germany	40,929	-Germany	40,943
-U.K.	11,150	-U.K.	22,855
-Ireland	6,004	-Ireland	11,092
Poland	664	Poland	254
Czech Rep.	1,531	Czech Rep.	1,237
Estonia	824	Estonia	994
Lithuania	321	Lithuania	137
Total for Others	96,197		95,174
Others not Listed	1,453		2,061
Grand Total	97,650		97,235

Export Trade Matrix			
Country	Netherlands		
Commodity	Dairy, Dry Whole Milk Powder		
Time period	CY	Units:	Metric Tons
<b>Exports for:</b>	1998		1999
U.S.		U.S.	4
Others		Others	
E.U.	18,372	E.U.	19,233
-Belgium/Lux	4,127	-Belgium	3,687
-Germany	9,670	-Germany	9,606
Ivory Coast	4,268	Ivory Coast	6,295
Saudi Arabia	26,797	Saudi Arabia	27,182
United Arab Em.	14,401	United Arab Em.	14,216
Singapore	2,546	Singapore	4,079
Dominican Rep.	5,374	Dominican Rep.	7,213
Oman	5,489	Oman	6,904
Algeria	19,411	Algeria	3,913
Total for Others	96,658		89,035
Others not Listed	93,381		101,271
<b>Grand Total</b>	190,039		190,310